

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 029890

NODIS

FOL RPT CAIRO 1496 ACTION SECSTATE 4 FEB.

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 1496

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, EG, IS US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN E-1 STATION

REF CAIRO 1404

1. US TEAM REPORTS THAT DURING A MEETING ON
FEB 3 WITH MG GAMAL AT THE TECHNICAL
TRAINING INSTITUTE CONCERNING PREPARATION OF
SITE E-1 FOR ERECTION OF 100 METER TOWERS, HE
AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN RE ADEQUACY OF THE

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PROPOSED PHASE II ELECTRONIS SYSTEM TO PROVIDE

HIM WITH A STRATEGIC WARNING CAPABILITY,
GAMAL COMMENTING THAT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT RADAR
CAPABILITY, THE SITE WOULD PROVIDE ONLY A TACTICAL,
NOT STRATEGIC, EW CAPABILITY. HE STATED THAT
HE IS UNDER DIRECTION TO OBTAIN A STRATEGIC
CAPABILITY, NOTHING LESS.

2. HE STATED THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO OBTAIN A
SYSTEM AS COMPLETE AS UMM KHISHEIB, BUT ONE
THAT IS ADEQUATE FOR THE JOB. HE IS MOST CONCERNED
THAT ANY SUPPRESSION OF THE SYSTEMS' RADAR COVERAGE
TO ACCOMMODATE THE OTHER EW EQUIPMENT ON THE
LIMITED WORKING AREA AVAILABLE ON THE PRESENT SITE
WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO AN ADEQUATE EW CAPABILITY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION CONCERNING PROGRESS
IN THE JOINT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS FOR
REVISED BOUNDARIES FOR E-1, HE STATED THAT NO
FINAL RESPONSE HAD YET BEEN OBTAINED FROM THEM.
HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD STATED THAT
THE AMERICANS FELT THAT THE SITE AS NOW
DELINEATED COULD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
ADEQUATE EW CAPABILITY. HE APPEARED DEFINITELY
CONCERNED ABOUT THIS STATEMENT AND WAS NOT MOLIFIED
BY THE OBSERVATION THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY A
QUOTE TRIAL BALLOON UNQUOTE FLOATED BY THE
ISRAELIS TO OBSERVE EGYPTIAN REACTIONS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST SIGN OF POSSIBLE
DIFFICULTIES. WE HAD NOT HEARD FROM
SIILASVUO (CAIRO 1491 THAT ISRAELIS MADE ANY SUCH
STATEMENT, BUT JUST AS WE ARE DECLINING GIVE
EGYPIANS ADVICE ON LOCATION OF E-1, WE SHOULD
AVOID STATEMENTS TO ISRAELIS RE OPTIMUM SIZE
OF STATION. ISRAELIS MAY INDEED HAVE MISQUOTED US OR
SIMPLY ATTRIBUTED SUCH VIEW TO US AND, IF SO, WE SHOULD REQUEST

THEM TO
REFRAIN FROM COMMENTS WHOSE PRINCIPAL EFFECT IS TO AROUSE
EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS OF OUR INTENTIONS. IF THEY FAIL TO
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DO SO WE SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO CORRECT THE RECORD, NOT ONLY
WITH EGYPTIANS WHO ARE PREDICTABLY SUSPICIOUS,BUT
PERHAPS ALSO THROUGH SIILASVUO.
EILTS

UNQUOTE SISCO

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